



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

04 MAY 2009

James Rost
Office of Location and Environment
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mr. Rost:

RE: Review of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the I-29 Sioux City
Interstate Study, Woodbury County, Iowa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the I-29 Sioux City Interstate Study. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The FEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20090093.

We offer the following comments to address and minimize potential environmental impacts of the project:

Sewer Relocation & Regulated Materials

In our DEIS comment letter, dated June 6, 2008, we recommended including an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the relocation of approximately 9000 feet of sanitary sewer as described in paragraph 3.1.6 Utilities. In addition, we recommended that the areas for relocation should be identified to avoid all "regulated materials" sites to prevent further contamination and suggested developing a strategy to handle any hazardous substances that may be encountered during construction.

While section 3.2 of the FEIS did include an updated utilities section, there are an additional 3000 linear feet of existing water main included in the FEIS that was not mentioned in section 3.1.6 Utilities of the DEIS. Also included as an update under the Utilities section in the FEIS is an additional 3400 linear feet, for a new total of 12,400 linear feet of sanitary sewer lines that are to be relocated or abandoned. The FEIS states that the relocation or abandonment is due to "conflicts with the proposed pavement location of the Preferred Alternative." We are merely highlighting this difference in order to improve coordination of this additional increment of sewerage among all parties associated with this project.

Section 3.2 states that "it is likely that the relocation of the water and sewer mains would come into contact with contaminated soil," some of which have the potential to impact high risk recognized environmental conditions (REC) sites. While mitigation measures are included, we would again recommend that if possible, the relocation areas should make the best attempt to avoid any regulated materials or REC sites. If this is not feasible, the smallest possible area and/or the lowest risk area should be considered.

Lastly, Table 3.3 Relocation of Sanitary Sewer provides three options (A, B, & C) for possible relocation but does not identify the preferred option of the three.

Thank you for addressing our comments from the previous correspondence. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project and your FEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 913-551-7565 or via email at tucker.amber@epa.gov or you may contact Joe Cothorn, NEPA Team Leader, at 913-551-7148 or via email at cothorn.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber Tucker".

Amber Tucker
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division